



Town of Amherst, NH
BOARD OF SELECTMEN MEETING MINUTES
Barbara Landry Meeting Room
2 Main Street
Monday, February 22, 2022, 5:30PM

1. Call to Order

Chairman Peter Lyon called the meeting to order at 5:30 p.m.

Attendees: Chairman Peter Lyon, Selectman Dwight Brew, Selectman John D'Angelo, Selectman Tom Grella, and Selectman Danielle Pray

2. Non-Public Session

2.1. RSA 91-A:3 (d) - Consideration of the acquisition, sale, or lease of real or personal property which, if discussed in public, would likely benefit a party or parties whose interests are adverse to those of the general community.

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to enter into Non-Public Session under RSA 91-A:3 (d) at 5:30pm.

Voting via a roll call vote: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to exit into Non-Public Session at 6:25pm.

Voting: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

No motions were made, no votes were taken during Non-Public Session.

3. Reconvening of Public Session

Attendees: Chairman Peter Lyon, Selectman Dwight Brew, Selectman John D'Angelo, Selectman Tom Grella, and Selectman Danielle Pray

Also present: Town Administrator Dean Shankle, and Recording Secretary Kristan Patenaude

Chairman Lyon reconvened Public Session at 6:32pm.

4. Pledge of Allegiance – led by Selectman Dwight Brew.

5. Citizen's Forum –

Kelly Mullin, 48 Christian Hill Road, asked if the Board would soon to reviewing COVID-19 data and the policies in place for masking in Town buildings.

Chairman Lyon stated that the Board will not address this tonight but there is interest in doing so at a future date, possibly March 14, 2022.

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40 **6. Scheduled Appointments**
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42 **6.1 Gretchen Davis, AJWC: Request for use of the Town Common, Annual**
43 **Easter Egg Hunt 4/9/22 10am-Noon**

44 Gretchen Davis asked permission to use the Town Common on April 9, 2022, from 10am to
45 12pm for an in-person Easter Egg Hunt.
46

47 *A MOTION was made by Selectman Grella and SECONDED by Selectman Pray to approve*
48 *the AJWC request to use the Town Common for the Annual Easter Egg Hunt on April 9, 2022,*
49 *from 10am – 12pm.*

50 *Voting: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.*
51

52 **6.2 Amy Rousseau, PFAS Response Administrator**

53 Amy Rousseau, DES, addressed the Board regarding the PFAS response in Town. She
54 explained that the standard water sampling was initially conducted in Amherst largely around
55 the TCI site. The Town has since been resampled, due to the original standards being lowered
56 from what they previously were. PFAS is now being seen in much greater occurrences
57 throughout Amherst. Thus far, in Amherst, 450 private wells have been sampled, and more
58 than 200 of these have exceeded the PFAS standards. This is being seen outside of the original
59 TCI site area as well. Currently, DES is conducting targeted sampling, with wells tested when
60 within 500' of an already noted occurrence. At this time, sampling can be requested by DES
61 using a form.
62

63 Ms. Rousseau explained that there are two types of funding currently available to treat
64 effected wells. The first is a rebate program that is being carried out statewide for private
65 wells. This includes an up to \$1,500 rebate, retroactive to September 30, 2019, for Point of
66 Use (POU), Point of Entry (POE), or service connections installed. This is still pending
67 Governor and Executive Council approval. The timeline for this rebate is approximately 2-3
68 months.
69

70 Ms. Rousseau explained that the second type of funding is through a remediation grant and
71 loan fund. This gives towns a low-interest loan and grant fund for remediation of PFAS in
72 drinking water. The grant funding is \$1.5M, or 30% of the total cost of the project in a town.
73 This is only retroactive to March 3, 2021. Merrimack and Bedford have applied for this grant
74 at a rate of \$6,500/each resident to apply, to install whole house remediation systems. This is a
75 two-step application process and is first come-first served. Amherst could initiate such a
76 grant/loan fund, and then ask for reimbursement from the State for the \$1.5M or up to 30% of
77 the total cost of the project.
78

79 In response to a question from Selectman Brew, Ms. Rousseau explained that the first option
80 is a rebate program. Certain information must be provided to the State, and the State will then
81 cut the customer a check for up to \$1,500. The State has received approximately 3,000
82 applications thus far for these funding methods.
83

84 In response to a question from Selectman Brew, Ms. Rousseau explained that Merrimack has
85 a known number of customers that may apply for the grant and loan fund, it then doubled this

number, in case new customers apply. Merrimack then multiplied this number (150) by \$6,500 to apply for a grant in this amount to distribute for rebates to those who apply.

Selectman Brew asked about what the Town should do as a member of the Regional Souhegan Landfill District. Ms. Rousseau explained that it is typical to see high levels of PFAS near transfer stations. The Town should reach out to the Hazardous Waste Mitigation Bureau, as this may still be eligible for the grant program.

Selectman D'Angelo noted that the public can either request a rebate of \$1,500 for a filter placed at a sink, or a larger rebate amount to install a full house filter to treat all water sources. Ms. Rousseau stated that DES is willing to work with the Town to determine what the rebate amount should be for the whole house system.

In response to a question from Selectman D'Angelo, Ms. Rousseau explained that the remediation funds are being supplied through the ARPA Grant, and so must be administered by the end of 2026.

In response to a question from Chairman Lyon, Ms. Rousseau explained that there are upwards of 200 effected homes in Amherst. PFAS appears to be spreading, with other industries such as Fire Departments and landfills being commonly effected. However, some areas are effected and there is no explanation as to why.

In response to a question from Town Administrator Shankle, Ms. Rousseau explained that the links for eligibility requirements and the rebate applications will be made available to place on the Town's website. The Town could consider hiring a contractor to install these systems and this could also be eligible for some of the grant funding. The Town can request as much funding as it would like, but the grant is only for \$1.5M or 30% of the total project.

George Mullin, 315 Boston Post Road, asked if residents can be eligible for both sets of funding sources after remediation has been installed. Ms. Rousseau stated that residents must choose to apply for one funding source or the other, as this will be tracked by the State.

Selectman Brew noted that \$1.5M divided by \$6,500 equates to approximately 230 homes. He asked if the systems installed do not cost the full \$6,500, if more than 230 homes can be rebated. Ms. Rousseau stated that this is correct, as long as it does not exceed the \$1.5M in total.

In response to a question from Selectman D'Angelo, Ms. Rousseau explained that there could be an additional 10% markup included in the grant amount to cover work done by the Town as part of this process.

In response to a question from Selectman Pray, Ms. Rousseau explained that disbursements are requested from the State by the town on a monthly basis, depending on how many applications have been received by the town during that time. This is truly dependent on how quickly the town works to complete the process, as the grant is first come-first served.

Bill Stoughton, 11 Pinetop Road, asked if the rebate amount can be adjusted based on how many residents in Town end up applying for it. Ms. Rousseau explained that the Town does not need to use the \$6,500 figure; it can choose any amount. Once the grant total is set, that is the amount the Town will receive.

Barbara Mullin, 315 Boston Post Road, asked if the \$6,500 will be enough to install a whole house remediation system. She also asked about ongoing maintenance. Ms. Rousseau explained that the grant rebate amount is only for the initial installation of the system; regular maintenance will be required at the owner's expense. The \$6,500 figure is typical and is based on pricing sought from vendors by Merrimack and Bedford. She noted that some whole house systems can be cheaper than this if they do not treat for additional things.

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to authorize the Town Administrator to work with DES to move forward with the application process for these rebate funding options, and to report back to the Board.

Voting: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

Chairman Lyon stated that the Board will try to start this process and report back to the public as fast as possible.

7. Deliberative Session Review

The Board agreed that the Deliberative Session went well this year.

8. Administration

8.1 Administrative Updates

Town Administrator Shankle did not have any updates at this time.

8.2 Nashua Regional Planning Commission (NRPC) Appointments

Selectman Brew explained that, per RSA, every town can have up to two Commissioners appointed to the NRPC. Due to Amherst's population, it is also allowed to have a third representative. The Town currently has one member sitting on the NRPC, but all three of its spots will be vacant as the terms all expire on March 25, 2022. The Town advertised for this position and there are two interested parties. Per RSA, the Planning Board is to recommend appointments to the NRPC, and the Board of Selectmen then appoints these. The Planning Board recently interviewed the two interested parties, Will Ludt and Jason Hennessey, and is recommending that the Board appoint both. He noted that the NRPC terms are 4-year terms, he thus suggested that the Board appoint both positions to a 2, 3, or 4-year term. He also noted that one of the Commissioner positions is recommended to be filled by a Selectman representative.

Will Ludt stated that he would prefer the 4-year term. The Board thus agreed to appoint Jason Hennessey to the 3-year term. There was discussion regarding Selectman Pray potentially filling the third position, once open. This will first need to be brought to the Planning Board for recommendation.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Pray to appoint Will Ludt to a 4-year term as NRPC Commissioner representative to Amherst, and Jason Hennessey to a 3-year term as NRPC Commissioner representative to Amherst. Voting: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

9. Staff Reports

9.1 New Hire – Town Planner

Nic Strong explained that Nicole Stevens has been interviewed for the Town Planner position. She is recommending that the Board hire her, due to her background in Environmental Planning and GIS.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to hire Nicole Stevens as the Town Planner. Voting: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

10. Approvals

10.1 Assessing

A. The subject property was issued a Land Use Change Tax in the amount of \$14,960, however the LUCT amount was intended to be issued at \$14,200. It is recommended that the LUCT amount be changed from \$14,960 to \$14,200. This results in a LUCT abatement in the amount of \$760.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to approve the LUCT Abatement in the amount of \$760 for Tax Map 004 Lot 154-002. Voting: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

B. The attached BTLA appeal has been reviewed by our Assessor and our Assessor recommends signing the settlement and issue the abatement.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to approve the BTLA settlement by changing the assessed value of this property to \$750,000 and issuing an abatement for \$3,517.00 for Map 010, Lot 030-036.

Voting: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

C. The attached application has been reviewed by our Assessor and our Assessor recommends granting the exemption.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Brew and SECONDED by Selectman Grella to approve the Disabled Exemption for the tax year 2022 in the amount of \$65,000 for Map 002, Lot 166-046.

Voting: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

10.2 AP, Payroll, Minutes

Payroll

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Pray to approve one (1) FY21 Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$901.75 dated January 19, 2022, subject to review and audit.

Voting: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Pray to approve one (1) FY21 Payroll Manifest in the amount of \$221,969.92 dated February 10, 2022, subject to review and audit.

Voting: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

Accounts Payable

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Pray to approve one (1) FY21 Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$41,191.67 dated February 16, 2022, subject to review and audit. (NH DMV)

Voting: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Pray to approve one (1) FY21 Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$29,079.04 dated February 8, 2022, subject to review and audit. (NH DMV)

Voting: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Pray to approve one (1) FY21 Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$185,275.72 dated February 15, 2022, subject to review and audit. (Vendors)

Voting: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman D'Angelo and SECONDED by Selectman Pray to approve one (1) FY21 Accounts Payable Manifest in the amount of \$4,214.70 dated February 15, 2022, subject to review and audit. (Vendors)

Voting: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

A MOTION was made by Selectman Pray and SECONDED by Selectman D'Angelo to approve the Board of Selectmen meeting minutes of February 7, 2022, as written.

Voting: 5-0-0; motion carried unanimously.

11. Action Items

The Board reviewed its action items.

12. Old/New Business

NEXT MEETING: Monday, March 14, 2022

Selectman Danielle Pray

Date